

## The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1886.

## One Thing that is Needed.

"Pleasure attracts—like a vacuum," says a recent writer. A wise sentiment, pithily expressed! The times are full of excitement. The rush for wealth, fame, pleasure is maddening. Every city is full of it. Towns follow in their wake, caught in the flow of an irresistible tide. Whatever delights the eye, pleases the ear or flatters the taste, is eagerly sought after.

What can turn back the tide, calm the nerves, relieve the overstrained mind, and produce that self-control which estimates aright the good things of life?

Evidently there is no comfort in a surfeit even of pleasure. One must seek contentment, rest, growth of mind and of heart if he would have happiness. The problem is a complex one, (for who can know the human heart?) and yet in one view of it, it is very simple. Men and women have diverse tastes. All do not require the same food; all cannot do the same work.

One man has a love for machinery; another for commercial pursuits; a third delights in science; a fourth in literary studies. As each has peculiar aptitudes, so each must have his own field of work. It follows, then, that fullness of mind, and rectitude of heart must be reached by different channels.

Many can be drawn toward goodness by the love of sports, of companionship, by the wise and loving counsels of good and true men; but not all.

Many can be saved only by the cultivation of tastes which are outside of either their work or their play. The teacher who discovered that one of her scholars, who cared nothing for his books, yet was interested in descriptions of butterflies and bugs, set him to collecting specimens for her; and soon won the heart through the cultivated taste.

We hear much of saving young men by drawing them into the churches and Christian associations, but what shall keep them there? Shall Sunday schools? But these cannot employ all who should be doing something; nor any one more than a small portion of his time. Shall prayer meetings? But these cannot be held more than once or twice a week. Shall sports? But these attract only a few and then only for a time. Youth requires variety, change, continued and earnest employment.

Some activity must be found so absorbing as to make pleasure a secondary consideration. Excitements should not be multiplied but the rather diminished; and in the quiet incident to rest, there will be found time for that greatest need of the modern young man and young woman, self-education.

We have already a working community, we should have also a reading community, not of low and sordid books, which, like society, teach only self-gratification, but books of high tone and character, books full of the wisdom of genius, books instinct with life and character.

We do not underestimate religion. It has wonderful power. It is the life.

Yet he is an object of pity who has only life. He should have growth also, and this he cannot have without food, and food is mental and spiritual nourishment.

What then is needed? Many things, no doubt, but one in particular.

Bloomfield at one time was known as the mother of schools. In every circle their influence was felt. These have passed away, perhaps forever. In their place should come, at least, the silent influence of a vast treasure-house of learning in the shape of a library. Good books, papers and magazines will save not a few young men. It will do more. It will develop their characters, and make them useful and intelligent members of society.

Books cannot take the place of personal effort for the erring, but they can powerfully supplement it. They cannot take away the temptations of society, or prevent those disappointments which provoke recklessness, but they can reduce temptations to a minimum, and provide an asylum of restful enjoyment to the disappointed and fallen.

We have spoken only of books, and good books. Bad books, indifferent books, books which reflect only the madness of an over-stimulated society, away with them!

A handsome library building, attractive with frescoes, paintings, and the charming grace of the architect's art, together with Nature's noble gifts of light and air: would that we possessed it!

Yet it is not essential, any more than that our books should be handsomely bound.

It is the books that we love, with their noble thoughts, rich teachings, divine sentiments.

They may all be had for a price and a little price. They are needed. Who will provide them?

## Princeton College.

Some time ago we received a circular addressed to the alumni of Princeton College. It set forth the desirability of a closer union between the graduates of Princeton residing in New York and vicinity, and extending an invitation to attend a meeting of the alumni to be held at Delmonico's Thursday evening of last week. It is also "intimated," as Dr. McCosh would say, that after the meeting there would be a supper, the expense of which had already been provided for. We accepted the invitation and attended the meeting. Knowing the considerable number of our readers interested in Princeton, we thought it would not be amiss to inform them of the nature of the proceedings.

The meeting was held in one of Delmonico's ballrooms, and whether owing to the active interest now taken in Princeton on account of the Holmes-McCosh episode, football matches, glee clubs, and the like, or the "intimation" concerning supper, or some other more praiseworthy motive, there was a very large attendance.

Mr. J. W. Alexander, President of the Alumni Association, presided. He commented on the size of the meeting, it being the largest he had ever attended. He observed that there was a feeling that some more compact organization than the alumni association should represent the interests of Princeton in and around New York. The latter organization was chiefly concerned, attending one meeting a year chiefly for the purpose of dining; and while the annual dinner was exceedingly entertaining it did not afford an opportunity for paying much attention to the college work. The old idea that the college should be run as a close corporation, in which the alumni had nothing to say was dying out, and the trustees (that time honored and conservative body) had actually passed a resolution, asking that the different alumni associations should appoint delegates, to meet them and confer regarding the interest of the college.

There was also a growing opinion that the alumni should elect a certain number of the trustees, but nothing of that sort was possible under the present charter. It had been thought wise to form a new organization to be known as the Princeton Club which should meet at least four times a year. This did not involve the necessity of permanent club rooms or any great expense. In this way the graduates of Princeton would become better acquainted, more united, and capable of effective work for the college. The meeting had been called for the purpose of learning the views of the alumni and formally organizing if the idea of the club found favor.

After considerable discussion it was decided to organize and a constitution was adopted, the essential features of which were that four meetings a year should be held, the one in March being the occasion of the annual dinner; the fixing of dues at five dollars a year, the making of all graduates, those who had been resident students, professors of Princeton, and those who had received degrees eligible for membership.

During the meeting telegrams were received from the Alumni Associations of Cincinnati and Washington. Three delegates were appointed to attend the conference with the board of trustees. By this time the supper was discovered to be ready, and no one suggesting any more important business an adjournment to the supper room was ordered. The Citizen representative having dined about an hour and a half before and not having the anatomical constitution of an ox was unable to do much justice to this part of the entertainment, although it had the appearance of being everything that could be desired.

In one corner of the room there was a gigantic bowl of claret punch, much in demand, and not far from it an apparently inexhaustible supply of "Havanases." After supper all went back to the ballroom and without respect to age or cloth became, in imagination at least, students again. To say that they were hilarious mildly expresses it: men with grey hair and no hair at all sang and performed overtures with combs and paper-instruments. The applause was deafening and brought ladies and gentlemen from more quiet parts of the building to inspect the proceedings.

About eleven o'clock the meeting broke up, it being the universal sentiment the evening had been the grandest kind of a success. We have not had a better time in many a day. We most earnestly recommend to our Princeton friends that they join at once and be on hand at the next meeting.

We have frequently had occasion to comment on the "news" furnished by contemporaries of neighboring cities concerning Bloomfield affairs, but seldom have had anything come as near home as the following, from the Newark Daily Advertiser:

"A brilliant reception was given Tuesday evening by Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Richards, to over 100 of their friends, at their home on Franklin Hill."

We have it on the best authority that on Tuesday evening, Dr. and Mrs. Richards were themselves being very pleasantly entertained on the other side of the Hudson River. In the mean time some of the more intimate friends of the family have been trying to find out why they were omitted from the invitation list, which included more than a hundred others.

## How The Pen Travels.

A rapid writer can pen thirty words in a minute. To do this he must draw his pen through the space of a rod, 164 feet. In forty minutes his pen might travel a furlong. In a little more than five hours the small instrument may have gone a mile. In a year of three hundred such working days, the pen would have traced a mark on paper three hundred miles long.

Each letter of the ordinary alphabet requires from three to seven turns of the pen—on an average of three and half to four. Writing thirty words in a minute, at least 490 such curves must be made; in an hour 28,800; in a day of five hours, 144,000; in a year of 300 days 43,200,000.

The man who makes a million strokes with his pen in a month is not at all remarkable. Many persons, newspaper writers for instance, make four times that number.

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